ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

DDI Evaluation of Wang

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FROM:

A-D/ODP
2D00 Headquarters

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

7 January 1983

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)
	RECEIVED	FORWARDED		
1. DDA 7D18 Hqs				
2.	•			Harry,
3.				Bruce asked me to share this with you. A second report that is coordinated with our Engineering Division should be out next week presenting a more balanced view. Gail will have more for you next week on this subject.
4.				
5.				
6.				
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9.				
11.				
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13.				
14.				
15.				

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FORM 610 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS
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23 December 1982   2 9 DEC 1982 DD 98✓

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MEMORANDUM FOR:

FROM:

SUBJECT: DDI "Evaluation" of WANG

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Bruce:
        I talked to [   ] yesterday, Wed Dec 22, about the
report. He told me the report had already gone out.

        I told him that I considered it to be a very biased one
sided report. That I was very unhappy that no one in ED had
seen a copy in draft, and that no one had been asked to
verify the statements, several of which were wrong. Andrea
was at the meeting and agreed. He added that the DDI had
had 14 secretaries trained on the Wang, and that all
concluded that the Wang would not do the job for the DDI. He
said I had to understand that the DDI is different.

        I stated that I thought the study should be accurate
and should lay out both the costs or disadvantages of Wang
as well as the benefits of using the Wang. I said I had no
problem with DDI management making a valud judgement based
on accurate facts, but that I strongly objected to them
STAT making a decision on a report such as was presented.

        ASG is planning another report due out 30 December. Ed
[   ] said he would work with us on that report so that it

ILLEGIB   Summary
STAT   We have a problem.

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Distribution:

        - addressee

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ODP-~~82-1895~~

17 DEC 1982

DD

MEMORANDUM FOR: See distribution list

STAT   FROM:

Chief, Analytic Support Group, CPAS

SUBJET: Wang Evaluation Report

1.   Attached is an interim report on the Wang Alliance Office Automation System which is currently being evaluated by CPAS/ASG. A second phase evaluation report will be sent to you in February 1983.

2.   Based on the interim report, we recommend that DI offices not purchase or lease the Wang Alliance now. The Wang Alliance clearly has problems, as indicated in the report. The most serious problems are that it takes up space, is hot and noisy, and requires a full time support person. These problems will not be quickly solved.

3.   ASG is looking at alternative solutions to the DI requirement for communicating word processors. Meanwhile, we are continuing the Wang evaluation. In the interim, if your office has an urgent need for a stand alone word processor, we recommend that you order either a single Wang unit (not an Alliance) or an NBI word processor. You should be aware that the processing backlog in ODP is now six months for either type.

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Attachment:
 as stated

Distribution list:
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2 December 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Resource and Technology Center

FROM: Chief, Resources Branch

SUBJECT: Wang Exploitation

Introduction

The purpose of this memorandum is to report on and expand our 27 September plan for evaluating the Wang Office Automation System. In it we describe and assess the first phase of our plan, now complete, then present and comment on the four remaining phases. The ASG Applications Center is evaluating the Wang as a microcomputer system and will issue a report in April 1983.

Phase I

The first phase of our Wang testing was to include the following:

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- Acquire and install a Wang Office Information System (the

- Train personnel who will be participating in the Wang evaluation.

- Assess the environmental impact of the Wang.

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The results of the first-phase tests are as follow:

Installation

An Alliance system was installed in 2G40 Headquarters on 17 November 1982. It included 12 terminals and 4 printers. The installation period covered about two weeks, during which time the office was seriously disrupted by the presence of several workers who installed the cables. The job was a messy one, lending further to the disruption.

Over three months elapsed between the time we submitted our order to the Office of Data Processing (ODP) and the operational date. ODP tells us that is the average time required. This compares with an average procurement/installation time of 30 days for NBI word processing systems.

As our Alliance was being installed, we learned several things about it that we hadn't know before:

- Terminal Separation. ODP told us that we could place terminals up to 1000 feet from the central processor unit (CPU). We later were told that the maximum separation was 500 feet. not 1000 feet. This matter could be very important to the DI if we begin installing Alliance systems in the many DI offices that are spread through several floors and at various corners of the building. ODP tells us they are working on a means of extending the maximum separation up to 1000 feet and should be successful about mid-1983.

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During installation, we found that the system will support only 28. It seems two of the available connections are reserved for telecommunications interfaces (links to VM or other Alliances, for example), and two are reserved for software packages (like the CP/M package we are ordering for the Applications Center).

- System Terminal. One terminal must eventually be installed immediately adjacent to the CPU and disk drives. During maintenance and service operations—such as filing and system updates—the system administrator must monitor activities on both the CPU and a terminal.

- VM Interface. The VM to Wang interface is under development, but it may take longer than anticipated. Initially, personnel will only be able to "dump" files into the VM system. ODP is currently engaged in an intensive upgrade effort to allow data to be passed from a Wang network to the P&PD ETEC System. We anticipate that only one or two ASG Wang system users will be able to interface with the VM system at a time. The remainder must wait until one of the other users has completed his work session.

- Cost. The attached cost comparison suggests the Wang might be more cost effective for systems with seven or more workstations, but less cost effective for systems with six or fewer workstations.

Training

Each Alliance requires a system administrator. System administrator training consists of 6 1/2 working days. The system administrator's job could well become a full-time position for most DI offices. We estimate that it will take approximately six months for the systems administrator to become comfortable with the system.

Environmental Impact

Now that we have an Alliance in our office we can comment on several environmental issues.

- Space. The CPU and disk drives require approximately 100 square feet of space.

- Noise. The CPU and disk drives are too noisy for most office environments, so they require an isolated area.

- Heat. The system cannot function in areas whose temperature is above 90 degrees, therefore may require supplemental cooling.

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Phase II

The second phase of testing, now underway, is scheduled to be completed by 31 December 1982. It addresses the question of whether the Wang is an adequate replacement for the NBI as a word processor and focuses on the following:

- Basic system features.

- Keyboard configuration and comfort.

- Screen size.

- Printer speed and capability.

The second-phase testing will include the following:

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- A comparison of the Wang and NBI basic word processing capabilities by the ASG. _____ of the RTC will do most of this evaluation and will concentrate on the basic features common to both systems. Certain features of the Wang, characterized as advanced features and requiring advanced training, will not be tested. These features include word-in-text indexing, programming, and dictionary building.

- A comparison of the Wang and NBI systems by representatives from nine DDI offices (CPAS, SOVA, OEA, EURA, NESA, OGI, CRES, OSWR, and OCR). The representatives completed two days of word processing training in November. They will bring office typing material, normally prepared on NBIs, to the ASG and prepare the material on the Wang. Participants will be asked to complete questionnaires on all aspects of the system as they do their typing. We expect each representative to spend several hours per week on the Wang.

- A detailed cost comparison between the Wang and the NBI.

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- Several other offices are evaluating Wang systems, including ODP, ___ OCR, and OSWR. We will solicit information from them as part of our evaluation.

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Preliminary results of our second-phase testing are as follow:

- Word processing functions require more key strokes on the Wang than on the NBI.

- Text disappears from the Wang screen when change or insert commands are used.

- Formatting requires more keystrokes on the Wang than on the NBI.

- Sheet feeders are not available for the Wang. Continuous feed paper is not an adequate substitute.

Phases III-V

Assuming the Wang is found to be an adequate replacement for the NBI for basic word processing, we will test additional Wang features as follows:

- Phase III. Evaluate advanced word processing and office automation features, including calendar, notebook, visual memory, advanced data manipulation features, and personal message exchange.

- Phase IV. Add terminals and printers to our system and evaluate its ability to respond when fully loaded.

- Phase V. Evaluate the system's ability to provide easy access to the VM and SAFE systems, and the adequacy of the Wang terminal as a VM and SAFE terminal.

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